

County Health Department Nurse

Why did you choose public health nursing?

After working in hospitals for several years I decided I wanted to try a different aspect of nursing. I became interested in working in a community-based form of nursing.

Please briefly describe what you do in your role.

I work for the Health Department – primarily at the county jail. I provide medical care for the inmates as well as communication with the courts and deputies regarding various medical concerns. Education is a big aspect of this role, as well as preparing them to return to the community.

Please describe your role in the health care community where you practice nursing.

I work in the communicable disease section and immunizations, as well as at the jail.

What do you consider to be the most challenging and most rewarding part of public health nursing?

I believe the most challenging part of my job is also the most rewarding. Education of various diseases, such as Hepatitis, not only informs people of risks, but also how to prevent such disease. When I help an inmate understand this, it not only helps them, but it also helps protect the communities where they live. It is very rewarding when an inmate listens and you know you may have helped them make a positive change.

What advice do you have for nursing graduates who are considering public health nursing as a career?

Be open-minded and always listen to your “patient.” By doing this, you may be lead down a path much different than you planned on when first entering your nursing career.



Noel Cornwell, RN

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